



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

time. Since Mr. Goschen used his list (May, 1883) to show a decline of prices, some of the prices selected have inconveniently risen. If Mr. Goschen's logic is sound, and if scarcity of gold caused a fall, why should we not conclude that, since prices rise, gold is abundant? At least we may see the absurdity of assigning every change of price to changes in the quantity of gold. It is significant that Mr. Goschen has not in the last six years returned to this subject.

The quality of this book recalls only too vividly the painful gaps made in the ranks of English economists by the deaths of late years.

J. LAWRENCE LAUGHLIN.

On Parliamentary Government in England: Its Origin, Development and Practical Operation. By ALPHEUS TODD, LL. D., C. M. G. Second Edition by his Son. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1889. 2 vols. xxx, 844, xxiv, 964 pp.

Over twenty years ago Dr. Alpheus Todd, then librarian of Parliament for the Dominion of Canada, published his work *On Parliamentary Government in England*, which has since remained the standard work on the subject in the English language. Since the time of its publication many changes have been made in the law; and all interested in the government of England have been looking forward with eagerness to the promised second edition. Its issue was delayed by the death of Dr. Todd in 1884, after an active and laborious life, more than fifty years of which were spent in the public service. The work, however, has been carried on to completion by the author's son, Mr. Alpheus H. Todd, who says, in the preface to this edition, that his task has been confined to the necessary preparation of the manuscript for the press, and to the making of certain changes in the arrangement of the material which Dr. Todd's notes showed that he had intended to make. The new edition is therefore substantially the work of the elder Todd, and has therefore all the excellences and at the same time all the defects by which the first edition was characterized.

The excellences of the work are the thoroughness, exhaustiveness and general accuracy with which every subject coming under consideration is treated. If Parliament ever made any resolution of importance on any of its prerogatives or on those of the crown, some reference to it will pretty certainly be found in this book. It may not be exactly in the place one would expect to find it, as Dr. Todd's ideas of arrangement do not always coincide with those of his readers; but one can feel tolerably certain that the desired reference is somewhere in the book. Further, one may be quite sure, as a general thing, that any statement made by Dr. Todd is true. It would be difficult to find an actual mis-

statement in the book. In some cases, it is true, it is necessary to read perhaps six or seven pages to gain a correct impression, since what is said on one page is often modified, in some cases even contradicted, by what follows. This is especially noticeable as regards matters that have been changed by modern legislation. The modern legislation is usually given in the form of a sort of appendix to the text. Dr. Todd's acquaintance with modern legislation was apparently greater than his success in incorporating changes into the text of his first edition. Perhaps the cause of this confusion is that Dr. Todd was taken away before he had time to rewrite those portions of his book which required rewriting, and that his son has either not deemed himself fitted to make the necessary changes or has preferred to let his father's work come before the public in very much the same condition in which his father left it.

In one or two cases, however, there are actual misstatements made for whose presence in a book which is otherwise so accurate it is difficult to account. For instance, on page 262 of the first volume, the statement is made that the Act of Settlement has limited the inheritance of the crown to the heirs of the body of the Princess Sophia of Hanover, being Protestant members of the Church of England, and married to Protestants only. This of course is not exactly true. The Act of Settlement says not a word about the heirs being members of the Church of England, but only requires that they shall be Protestants, and then says that if they accept the crown they shall become members of the Church of England. If they were members of some other well-recognized Protestant confession, they would still be capable to succeed, and would not, as Dr. Todd seems to imply, be excluded from the succession. The only other actual inaccuracy of statement that I have noticed — which is not, however, an important one — is to be found in a comparison which is made between the English and American civil service. Dr. Todd was evidently not acquainted with our civil service law of 1883, and alludes to our civil service as it was before the passage of that law, and the formation of the civil service commission.

The arrangement of the subject matter, it must be said, is not generally good. It involves frequent repetition — of which the author seems to be conscious ; for he says he has adopted the present method in order that each matter examined might be thoroughly treated, even at the expense of repetition. But aside from this, the arrangement is not good. The transition from one subject to another is not always made clear, and matter is often forced into places where it does not in any way belong and where, being absolutely extraneous, it serves simply to distract the reader's attention and to throw him into confusion. But aside from these defects — which are mainly of style, rarely of substance

— *Parliamentary Government* is undoubtedly one of the most valuable books in the English language (if not the most valuable) on the government and administration of England. Certainly no other gives so much detailed information; and very few are so broad in their scope. It is the only English work of any scientific value which treats of the organization and action of the English executive departments. F. J. G.

The Swiss Confederation. By Sir FRANCIS OTTIWELL ADAMS, K.C.M.G., C.B., late Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Bern, and C. D. CUNNINGHAM. London, Macmillan & Co., 1889. — 8vo, 289 pp.

A decided merit of this book is the familiarity it shows with the practical working of Swiss institutions, a result of the residence of the authors in Switzerland and their acquaintance with many of its leading men. Chapters on the legislative and executive departments, the federal and cantonal judiciary, the *referendum*, political parties, the communes, the cantons, the army, religion, education, commerce and other subjects give a good deal of interesting information which an ordinary manual would not be expected to contain. We are told, for example, that the Federal Council is not made up exclusively of representatives of the dominant party; and the willingness to give other parties representation in this executive board is attributed to the diversity of nationality and language which prevents the division of the chambers into a ministerial and an opposition party, although it is no doubt due in part to the dependence of the Federal Council on the legislature whose will it carries into effect.

But despite its merits this book cannot be regarded as a contribution to the study of political science. The authors show little grasp of the comparative method, and they are not always accurate. The convention of Stanz, concluded nearly four centuries before the creation of a federal state, is spoken of as still further increasing federal sovereignty, while the Swiss federal state and the United States of America are referred to as leagues. The fact that the ultimate decision lies with the people through the *referendum* is suggested as an explanation of the lack of authority on the part of the supreme federal tribunal to declare laws unconstitutional. This explanation wholly disregards the fact that in the United States, where the courts have this power, the federal constitution is not made by Congress but by other organs of the people; while in the single commonwealths, where the courts again exercise this power, the constitutions are commonly adopted by popular vote, *i.e.*, by *referendum*. When we remember that the right to declare laws void is not regarded throughout Europe generally as judicial in its character and hence has